REMARKS:

Claims 1-23 remain in the application for consideration of the Examiner.

Claims 3 and 17 have been amended to correct a spelling error.

The Specification has been amended to update the reference to the related application. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over MAPICS (Mapics software as described in References A-F specified in the Office Action) in view of DATAMIRROR (Datamirror's Software as described in Reference A specified in the Office Action).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

> providing, via a message bus that provides for communication between the first primary HA system and a second primary HA system, change information to a database of a database system external to the first and second primary HA systems, the change information reflecting the modifications to the planning information

The proposed combination of MAPICS and DATAMIRROR does not disclose or suggest this limitation. For example, the proposed combination of MAPICS and DATAMIRROR fails to disclose or suggest the use of an external database system for storing change information reflecting modifications to the planning information of a primary HA system. Accordingly, the proposed combination of MAPICS and DATAMIRROR cannot render obvious claim 1, or claims 2-7 which depend from claim 1.

Independent claims 8, 15, 22, and 23 have been amended to recite limitations similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 1. Accordingly, the proposed combination of MAPICS and DATAMIRROR cannot render obvious claims 8, 15, 22, and

23, or claims 9-14 which depend from claim 8 and claims 16-21 which depend from claim 15, for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1.

In light of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-23 are in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Legal Standard for Obviousness Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991); M.P.E.P. § 2142. Moreover, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (CCPA 1974). If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); M.P.E.P. § 2143.03.

With respect to alleged obviousness, there must be something in the prior art as a whole to suggest the desirability, and thus the obviousness, of making the combination. *Panduit Corp. v. Dennison Mfg. Co.*, 810 F.2d 1561 (Fed. Cir. 1986). In fact, the absence of a suggestion to combine is dispositive in an obviousness determination. *Gambro Lundia AB v. Baxter Healthcare Corp.*, 110 F.3d 1573 (Fed. Cir. 1997). The mere fact that the prior art can be combined or modified does not make the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 U.S.P.Q.2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990); M.P.E.P. § 2143.01. The consistent criterion for determining obviousness is whether the prior art would have suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art that the process should be carried out and would have a reasonable likelihood of success, viewed in the light of the prior art. Both the suggestion

and the expectation of success must be founded in the prior art, not in the Applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991; *In re O'Farrell*, 853 F.2d 894 (Fed. Cir. 1988); M.P.E.P. § 2142.

A recent Federal Circuit case makes it clear that, in an obviousness situation, the prior art must disclose each and every element of the claimed invention, and that any motivation to combine or modify the prior art must be based upon a suggestion in the prior art. *In re Lee*, 61 U.S.P.Q.2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 2002). Conclusory statements regarding common knowledge and common sense are insufficient to support a finding of obviousness. *Id.* at 1434-35.

CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The undersigned hereby authorizes the Director to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayments, to **Deposit Account No. 500777**. If an extension of time is necessary for allowing the Amendment to be timely filed, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) to the extent necessary. Any fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time should be charged to **Deposit Account No. 500777**.

Please link this application to Customer No. 53184 so that its status may be checked via the PAIR System.

Respectfully submitted,

5 JULY 2005
Date

James E. Walton, Registration No. 47,245
Daren C. Davis, Registration No. 38,425
Brian E. Harris, Registration No. 48,383
Michael Alford, Registration No. 48,707
Law Offices of James E. Walton, P.L.L.C.
1169 N. Burleson Blvd., Suite 107-328
Burleson, Texas 76028
(817) 447-9955 (voice)
(817) 447-9954 (facsimile)
jim@waltonpllc.com (e-mail)

CUSTOMER NO. 53184
ATTORNEYS AND AGENTS FOR APPLICANT